

Baptist leaders critical of Obamacare ruling

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — The U.S. Supreme Court on June 28 narrowly upheld the 2010 health-care law known as Obamacare, dealing a disheartening setback to pro-life and religious liberty advocates who fervently opposed the controversial measure.

Chief Justice John Roberts, an appointee of former U.S. President George W. Bush, cast the deciding vote in a 5-4 opinion and then authored the majority opinion. Roberts said the individual mandate, which requires almost all Americans to buy health insurance, is a valid exercise by the U.S. Congress of its power to tax.

Although Congress does not have the power under the Com-

merce Clause of the U.S. Constitution to require the purchase of health insurance, it does have the authority to tax those who do not have such coverage, the court said.

Joining Roberts in affirming the law were associate justices Steven Breyer, a Clinton appointee; Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a Clinton appointee; Elena Kagan, an Obama appointee; and Sonia Sotomayor, an Obama appointee.

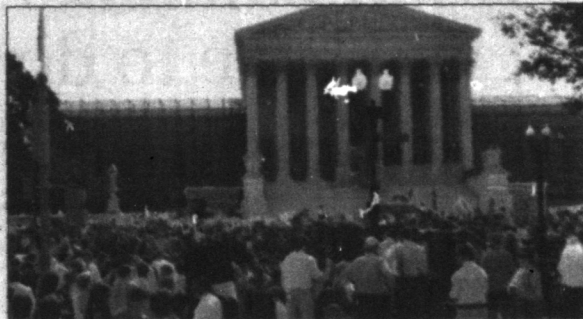
The remaining associate justices Samuel Alito, a George W. Bush appointee; Anthony Kennedy, a Reagan appointee; Antonin Scalia, a Reagan appointee; and Clarence Thomas, a George H.W. Bush appointee said in a dissenting opinion they would

have struck down the entire law.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, because of the individual mandate in combination with subsequent federal rules, has elicited widespread opposition. Other provisions that have raised protests include federal subsidies for abortion, an abortion/contraceptive mandate that critics say violates religious liberty, and a requirement that insurance plans in state exchanges not disclose their abortion coverage until people are enrolled.

The abortion-contraceptive mandate, which requires all plans to cover contraceptives and sterilizations as preventive

see RULING on p. 2



AWAITING VERDICT — A crowd gathers outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., on June 28 in anticipation of the court's announcement of its decision regarding President Obama's health care law. The justices ruled that the law is constitutional. (BP photo)

'BUSINESS AS USUAL'

Federal judge blocks Mississippi abortion clinic law

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

U.S. District Judge Daniel P. Jordan III issued a temporary restraining order in Jackson on July 1, blocking enforcement of a newly-enacted state law that both supporters and opponents claim could close Mississippi's lone abortion clinic located off State Street in Jackson.

The law, passed during the 2012 regular session of the Mississippi Legislature and signed by Governor Phil Bryant, requires

physicians performing abortions in the state to be certified OB-GYNs and acquire admitting privileges at a local hospital. Diane Derzis, owner of Jackson Women's Health Organization, has told news media that the out-of-state doctors who perform abortions at her clinic have applied for but not yet received admitting privileges from any Jackson-area hospitals.

After the restraining order was announced, Derzis was quoted in Jackson news media as saying the clinic would be open: "for business as usual."

Jimmy Porter, executive director of the

Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, issued a statement after Jordan's temporary restraining order was put into place.

"Abortion is legal under federal court rulings, but that does not mean it is morally acceptable to everyone. Therefore the Mississippi statute signed into law by Governor Phil Bryant, requiring abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at a local hospital, is very sensible and not out of the ordinary."

"The CAC strongly feels that if the abortion-clinic desires to provide 'surgical services' or abortions, they should and must

be held to the same standards demanded of other facilities providing the similar levels of health care."

Mississippi's top public officials and lawmakers have been outspoken in their desire to see Mississippi become the first state in the nation to rid itself of abortion clinics. When Gov. Phil Bryant, a first-term Republican, signed HB 1390 into law that would have required abortionists to be certified in obstetrics and gynecology and have hospital admitting privileges, he said, "This

see LAW on p. 2

Lightning-sparked fire destroys Pontotoc County church



A quick-spreading fire believed to have been caused by a lightning strike destroyed the sanctuary of Zion Church in Pontotoc County on July 4.

Pontotoc County Emergency Management Agency Director Ricky Jagers told the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal in Tupelo that firefighters managed to save the church's fellowship hall and a new addition, but the sanctuary built in 1954 was a complete loss.

Surveying the damage were (from right) church members Dan Bolan and Susan Waldo, pastor Robert Armstrong, and community members Robert Wall and Dean Jennings.

The church will proceed with plans to celebrate its 175th anniversary July 14-15 in the portions of the church buildings saved by firefighters.

(PHOTO courtesy of Jim Didlake/MBCB Men's Ministry)

Inside

Direction	4
Sunday School	
Lessons	
Editorial	
Bibliophiles	
How to Be a Christian	
Revivals & Homecoming	
Just for the Record	5
Classifieds	6



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

A few painkillers will have to do

Defenders and opponents alike were stunned by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling a couple of weeks ago upholding the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare. Both sides struggled to claim a victory of sorts, but the losers in the ruling were obvious: religious Americans.

The nobility of reaching out to those in need is not in question. As followers of Christ, such behavior is at the foundation of who we are. We understand that. Only the hardest of hearts could bear to turn away a truly suffering person or family without trying to help.

Baptist churches in Mississippi and across the country devote many millions of dollars each year to helping the needy. Individual Baptists do the same. The Baptist medical center (Jackson) and hospital (Memphis), affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, write off many millions of dollars each year on behalf of patients who cannot pay their bills. The list goes on and on.

As Christians, Baptists, and Americans, we understand our personal and corporate responsibility in this regard. We even acknowledge that government has a role to play. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, however, is not the way to do it. When politicians get involved, we should expect politics. That was certainly true when the U.S. Congress passed the Act by use of sinister procedural ruses and "sweeteners" for so many of the members and lobbyists. If a Congressman had a pet project, he was allowed to cram it into the bill. If a lobbyist wanted an exemption for his client, he got it.

The result was a 2,500-page, multi-trillion-dollar Frankenstein creature that will put the federal government in almost complete control of some very important matters heretofore left in God's hands — like life and death, for example.

No matter how much supporters deny it, the Act contains provisions for what has been described by opponents as "death panels." They're not called that in the Act,

of course, but the result will be the same if you or your loved ones are on the receiving end of one of their rulings.

There are literally dozens of new government agencies and commissions that will be formed under the Act to decide whether your newborn's life-threatening birth defect should be treated (how many children do you have now?), whether your mother's mammogram is really cost-effective at her age (she's retired and no longer contributing to society), or whether your dad's deteriorating health is worth the pharmaceutical cost of keeping him alive (there's only so much money available nationally for those particular drugs).

U.S. President Barack Obama seemed to confirm this when he answered a question from a Florida woman who wanted to know how her elderly mother would be treated under his nationalized health care plan as her health care needs increase with age. "We're not going to solve every difficult problem in terms of end-of-life care.... Maybe you're better off not having the surgery, but taking the pain killer."

Another especially troubling aspect of the Act is the delegation of rule-making to federal agencies and bureaucrats. Kathleen Sebelius, former governor of Kansas and one of the most pro-abortion public figures in the history of the country, is now serving as U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Under the Act, Congress ceded her office the authority to create many of the rules that we will all be expected to follow under Obamacare.

Her zeal for infanticide and the Obama administration's disdain for Christianity has already led Sebelius to promulgate a rule forcing religious institutions such as the Southern Baptist Convention and the Catholic Church to disregard their pro-life views and offer abortion-causing, baby-killing drugs free of charge to women covered under their insurance policies.

If the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act stands, look for more such attacks in the future.

LAW

cont. from p. 1

legislation is an important step in strengthening abortion regulations and protecting the health and safety of women. As governor, I will continue to work to make Mississippi abortion-free."

"We have an opportunity today with the signing of this bill to end abortion in Mississippi," said Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves, also a first-term Republican, after Bryant signed the legislation.

State Representative Andy Gipson of Braxton, a Republican and chairman of House Judiciary B Committee who was responsible for shepherding several pro-life bills through the House, said, "I believe in the fundamental right to life of the unborn and I am going to stand for that."

Jordan, who was nominated to the federal judgeship by former U.S. President George W. Bush, mentioned such comments when he issued the temporary restraining order. "Plaintiffs have offered evidence — including quotes from significant legislative and executive officers — that the Act's purpose is to eliminate abortions in Mississippi. They likewise submitted evidence that no safety or health concerns motivated its passage. This

evidence has not yet been rebutted."

Jordan set July 11 as the date for a hearing on whether to extend the restraining order. That hearing was held after publication deadline for The Baptist Record, so the results of the hearing will be reported in the July 19 issue.

Derzis, the owner of the Jackson abortion clinic, was forced by health authorities earlier this year to shut down a sister clinic she owns in Birmingham. In a 76-page report released by the Alabama Department of Public Health after three of Derzis' patients had to be rushed to the hospital in one day, investigators found:

- Clinic staff was not properly trained in patient care.
- No documentation that clinic doctors were qualified to perform abortions.
- Doctors submitted documentation for patient care that was simply false.
- Lack of documentation on medications administered.
- Altered notations on patients' charts.
- Equipment with expired inspection dates or no inspection dates at all.
- Failure of the on-call nurse to return patients' calls about complications.
- Failure to notify clinic physicians of patients' problems.

RULING

cont. from p. 1

services without cost to employees, has been in the spotlight of criticism since a federal rule to that effect was announced in January. The mandate includes coverage of contraceptives that can cause abortions of tiny embryos. The rule regarding that mandate has a religious exemption critics find woefully inadequate and has elicited ardent opposition from church groups and religious freedom advocates.

A pair of Southern Baptist Convention agencies, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville and GuideStone Financial Resources in Dallas, has protested those provisions and others. The

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has led a charge against the abortion/contraceptive mandate and the failure to protect freedom of conscience, and have been joined by pro-life and religious liberty organizations.

Multiple lawsuits challenging the mandate have been filed in federal court.

Jimmy Porter, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, said, "One must wonder if this ruling is the opening of the door for more government involvement in the private lives of the American people. Even more chilling and disappointing is the court's keeping intact the contraceptive mandate that forces health insurers to provide contraceptives and abortion inducing products."

"A narrow exclusion in Obamacare for churches is not broad enough to cover all aspects of a denomination's ministry-related institutions. This is blatant disrespect for the religious convictions of those who oppose abortion."

"The court has ruled but the American people will ultimately have the final say as they cast their ballots in future elections."

Southern Baptist leaders also expressed deep disappointment with the opinion. "It is astonishing that the majority of the justices did not see the bill for what it really is: a blatant violation of the personal freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution and perhaps a mortal blow to the concept of federalism," ERLC President Richard Land said in a written statement.

THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Barry Burris, Terry Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and address changes to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



VOLUME 136 • NUMBER 27 • ISSN-0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

U.S. NEWS

Same sex marriage legalization may hinge on request

WASHINGTON (BP) — The issue of same sex marriage has been officially appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, in a move that could lead to a landmark ruling.

Lawyers for the U.S. House of Representatives filed an appeal on June 29 with the Supreme Court, asking it to take up a case concerning the constitutionality of a major section of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), a 1996 federal law which defines marriage as being between one man and one woman. Because the court is in its summer recess, attorneys may not know for weeks or months whether the Supreme Court will hear it.

The appeal comes after the First Circuit Court of Appeals in May overturned DOMA Section 3, saying it violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal protection. Section 3 of DOMA defines marriage in federal law in the traditional sense, as being between a man and a woman.

Unless the First Circuit's ruling is reversed, the United States will join 11 countries around the world that recognize gay marriage, even though it's legal only in six states and the District of Columbia.

The First Circuit encompasses the states of Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island, along with the territory of Puerto Rico.

Massachusetts and the gay legal group GLAAD filed the suits that led to the First Circuit ruling, arguing it's wrong for the federal government not to recognize same sex marriages from states where it's legal and, by extension, not to grant federal benefits to the couples.

The Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group — the House's attorneys — said the federal government has legitimate reasons to define marriage as between a man and a woman. It also said the federal government is a sovereign body just like each state and therefore has the power, like Massachusetts, to define marriage as it chooses.

"Section 3 of DOMA simply asserts the federal government's right as a separate sovereign to provide its own definition which governs only federal programs and funding," the House attorneys wrote in the request.

"Congress, of course, did not invent the meanings of 'mar-

riage' and 'spouse' in 1996. Rather, DOMA merely reaffirmed and codified the traditional definition of marriage, i.e., what Congress itself has always meant — and what courts and the executive branch have always understood it to mean."

The 35-page House request notes that DOMA passed with bipartisan support and was signed by U.S. President Bill Clinton, and the request quotes from both Democrats and Republicans who backed it.

Significantly, the request argues that heterosexual relationships are unique and that children need a mother and father — arguments that the Obama administration had avoided even when it was defending the law.

Congress, the request says, believes it has a "deep and abiding interest in encouraging responsible procreation and child-rearing."

"Congress recognized the basic biological fact that only a man and a woman can beget a child together without external assistance, and sought to encourage children to be raised by both their biological parents," the request says.

The request even quoted an 1885 Supreme Court decision that had said marriage between a man and woman was the "sure foundation of all that is stable and noble in our civilization."

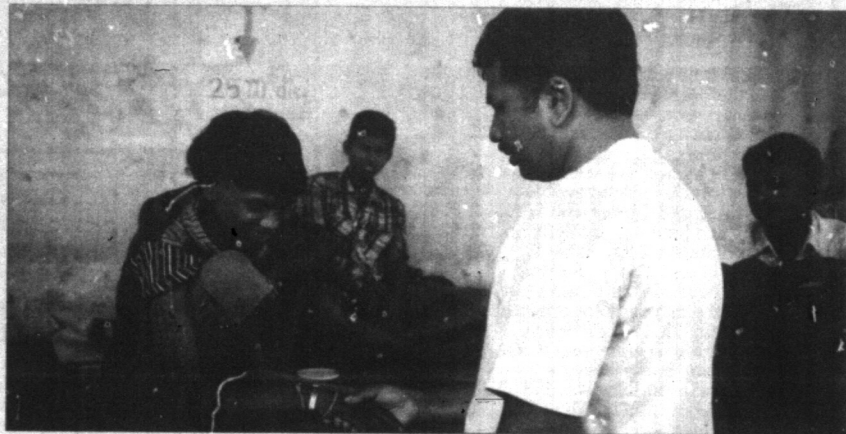
Four federal district courts have found DOMA unconstitutional, and four have found it unconstitutional, the request said.

"This Court and this Court alone has the power to settle this question and redirect controversy over this important national question to the democratic process," the House attorneys wrote.

Technically, the DOMA suit being appealed to the high court would not impact states' rights to determine their own marriage laws.

However, a separate lawsuit from California — the high-profile Proposition 8 case — could directly affect states. A Ninth Circuit panel overturned Prop 8, and that decision is expected to be appealed to the Supreme Court.

If the Supreme Court takes the Prop 8 case, then it probably would determine the constitutionality of the laws in the 44 states that don't recognize gay marriage.



NOT GIVING UP — Prabal Dey (standing), whose name has been changed for security reasons, shakes hands with an unidentified young Indian boy who lives in a railway station. Dey spends time in his city's train station to build relationships with railway boys, a difficult ministry but one in which he and others intend to be successful. (BP photo)

Baptists reach out with difficult ministry to boys

INDIA (BP) — Life for boys living in India's railway stations is a real version of the recent American movie, *Hunger Games*. If the boys don't fight, they'll be killed. If they don't find food and survive in this arena, they'll starve on the train tracks.

Railway boys are those who have run away from home and joined gangs who live in India's train stations. They travel the country, jumping from train to train and stealing from passengers. Nine boys have left this life behind and found earthly and heavenly family.

The boys sitting at this breakfast table survived the war. The glue sniffing, the razor blade scars, the rapes, and the murders have knit them together.

"This is my family," says Shad Khalil (name changed for security reasons), gesturing to the eight other boys in the hostel kitchen. He slings his arm around the youngest boy, pulling him close.

At age 16, Khalil is the oldest boy living in this Christian hostel. His smile seems innocent, but he lost his innocence a long time ago.

Life on the rails

Khalil, like most of the other boys in the hostel, ran away from home. Khalil left his home in Delhi at age 10. His mother came from a Catholic background but married a Muslim.

"There was no unity," Khalil says. "They were not like family at all."

Khalil's father spent many days drunk, beat Khalil's mother, and forced himself on her. He beat Khalil too, throwing household items at him. When Khalil tried to protect his mother, he was nearly beaten to death.

"My grandfather was a very dirty man," Khalil says, looking out the window. Tears begin to well in his eyes. "I have a sister. I feel my grandfather is spoiling her life."

Guilt consumes his face. "I was young and wouldn't express myself," Khalil says, fixing his gaze on the breakfast table. "I miss my sister. Pray for me and my family."

Khalil ran away and jumped on a train headed out of town. He eventually landed in a train station on the other side of the country, where he collected water bottles to sell, begged, and stole from passengers. He gave a portion of the profits to his gang leader for protection.

Gang leaders are boys in their late teens or early 20s who manipulate new railway boys by introducing glue-sniffing. The addiction creates a cycle of dependency and control.

Gang leaders in Khalil's train station were notorious for throwing boys in front of moving trains. Khalil was thrown onto the tracks and hit his head. He remembers that a man dressed in white helped him off the tracks. He has no idea who this man was and has never seen him since.

Not long after that, Khalil met Prabal Dey (name changed for security reasons), who offered Khalil a life outside the railway.

Changed by prayer

Prabal and Dejbani (name changed for security reasons) Dey have opened a Christ-centered hostel for railway boys like Khalil.

Glue withdrawals hit Khalil and his new brothers the first couple of weeks after they left

the railway. The Deys substituted food, sports, and television for glue. Yelling, fighting, and cursing were commonplace in the hostel.

"Satan was working so much, I couldn't come out of those addictions," Khalil says, shaking his head at the memory.

Dey said it took some time for the boys to obey adults who didn't threaten to kill them as punishment for disobedience. Now, though it's been several years, the boys still act out, Dey says, since so much in their life needs redeeming.

"Good food, good things can't change them," Dey says. "One thing can change them: Jesus."

The Deys teach God's truth to Khalil and his hostel brothers throughout the day and in devotional times. "They are completely changed because of prayer," Dey says. "They can't sleep if they don't have prayer."

The Deys and the railway boys are active members of the house church that Gary and Cynthia Follen (names changed for security reasons), leaders at the hostel and representatives of the International Mission Board representatives.

Follen mentors the railway boys and helps them work through emotional scarring. Follen played a pivotal role in Khalil's journey to Christ. "When he came to a Christian worship place, he [Khalil] was very different," Dey says. "He was anti-Christian."

Khalil came to the hostel timid and emotionally scarred, but more than two years later, he's quietly confident and his smile illuminates his face.

Khalil talks about God's provision in his life in almost every sentence. "God healed my broken heart," Khalil says.

The idiom Rome was not built in a day is widely used and a long time in service simply because it is absolutely true. When something is significant, large, and time consuming someone may say that Rome was not built in a day. For that reason, as you can see by the title, I have changed Rome into home because like it or not that is absolutely true also. The home was not built in a day. But sadly, in this day and age of instant everything and the demand for us to get our way and have our entitlements fulfilled immediately, we have a hard time building a home. The truth is that most weddings have a lot more work put into them than the marriage has put into it. That is why it might be a good idea for us to have wedding ceremonies where the couple shows up ready for work. Instead of a tux, a beautiful gown, and all of the frills that a beautiful wedding has just as the couple to show up in work clothes ready to give a strong effort and do whatever needs to be done to achieve the building of a home.

It never has been and it certainly is not an easy task today. While marriage is at the pinnacle of the greatest relationships that God ever allowed us human beings to experience, it is at the same time one of the most difficult relationships that might produce something that would provide opportunity to celebrate. It is entering into a relationship of work that brings great joy and not just entering into a great joyful relationship. So how do you go about building a home? First of all let me suggest that simple and yet also very significant things must be given immediate and high priority.

Love is to play a vital part and have a central place in the home day after day. It is not a sideline feature, but it is the centerpiece. It is not something that you simply look for to receive daily, but you find some way to convey and touch others with its power. It is not a passing emotion, but rather it is a constant commitment that will anchor everything about the home and bring great rewards.

Another building block that must be part of the early simple structure of a home is understanding. No one understands another person completely and seeking to be understanding can be a difficult thing. It can



H Rome was not built in a day

be a real chore, for not one husband fully understands his wife and not one wife fully understands her husband. From time to time, and often it seems like all of the time, we do not even understand ourselves much less another person. So building a home, though you may not have full and perfect understanding, can provide an atmosphere that will allow for the differences and the shortcomings in understanding.

Then there is the simple yet so rarely found trust and confidence that need to be in a relationship. If you do not trust your mate, that lack of confidence, whether you realize it or not, is eroding a part of your own heart. But let's move forward to the continuation of building a home and a marriage.

There are those areas that will need work of which you know nothing about. Throughout my years of ministry I have married hundreds of couples and every now and then I would be counseling a bride and a groom, one of which and sometimes both knew everything. I would try to help them understand that there would be areas of their marriage about which they would be totally in the dark and they would need the wisdom of God and a great commitment of care for one another to get through those situations. Sometimes my counsel was met with disdain and at other times there was just silent tolerance of someone who did not know what he was talking about. Away they would go loaded down with all of the answers to

all of the issues of life. But you see, none of us knows how we are going to deal with some of the unforeseen yet invariably real pieces of life and there will be work to be done.

What will you do when tragedy or loss strikes? You may say that you will trust the Lord and well you should. But the way you go about trusting the Lord and processing all of that information, experience, and tears may not be the same way as your spouse will deal with the same issue. You may think that something is wrong with him or her and as a result you may grow apart.

What will you do in raising your children when one has certain ideas about what needs to be done in the strictness of discipline and the other has a totally different view and feels that the children need to be given far more liberty? The result is often to criticize and to blame, and especially when the children are not behaving like mature adults, but they are acting like children. The breach between the two of you may become apparent and ever growing. No two children are alike and no two parents are alike. Children have a unique way of dividing the parents in order to get their way. While many of you will say they want to do that to us, well just sit back and watch. If you have your eyes open, you will be amazed. So it is that during the unknown areas that will come to the landscape of your home, you will need to be ready to give thoughtful, spiritual, and inspirational work to get through it. But you can do it.

Still there is more work to be done for more often than not one of you will have to work at being alone again. If you have lived well, loved long, and laughed joyfully as the building has taken place over the decades, sadly there is a conclusion and one is left alone. To deal with this part of a marriage, regardless of how good or maybe how difficult the marriage might have been, is going to take some more work to continue moving on in life. In fairness, I must confess that I have never walked this journey, but I have watched with amazement as others have walked this road. Some have approached it with grief that is unrelenting. And others have approached it with joyful determination to make these days meaningful.

You never know how a husband or a wife will respond. There have been some people who I would have thought would have been so strong and could have moved forward who were literally paralyzed. Their life disintegrated and their spirit became bitter. Others who I thought could not make it through the next day seemed to draw from a well of strength and faith that was undetected. It is impossible to know or to predetermine how a person is going to deal with this complicated part of the aftermath of marriage. A dear friend who died recently often said that his house was no longer a home after his wife died. At its best it is not easy, and at its worst it is impossible to get up and face the rest of the days to come.

Here is the fact about home building. It takes work every day and in every way. The rewards of the work can be wonderful and exciting, but it still takes work. You can be better, your spouse can be of greater worth, your children can be delightful, but it is going to take work. So allow me to close with the Kingdom covering words of Jesus when He said, "Work for the night is coming when no man can work" (John 9:4b). Part of that great work is certainly the home. So today do what you can to the best of your ability, accomplish what you can, and remember that the home was not built in a day.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

OBITUARY

Services for Max O. Burris, 78, were held June 25 at Northcrest Church in Meridian, with Danny Lanier, pastor of Northcrest Church, and Malcolm Lewis, former pastor of Northcrest Church, officiating. A private burial was held in the Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery with Barham Family Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

For the past 29 years Burris served as minister of music and associate pastor to senior adults at Northcrest Church. Prior to his service at Northcrest Church, he served as minister of music at State Boulevard Church in Meridian and Liberty Church in DeKalb.

He was also a part of the Mississippi Singing Churchmen, a men's choir and orchestra composed of music ministers from around the state and affiliated with the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. He was also a branch manager for Lance, Inc. Burris served in the U.S. Air Force from 1952-56.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Mary June Stokes Burris; sons, Barry Burris and wife Linda of Terry, and Myron Burris and wife

Laura of Conroe, Texas; daughters, Sheila Burris Garrett and husband Danny Ray of Meridian, Tanya Burris Wright and husband Russell of Meridian, and Pamela Burris Bice and husband Rodney of Bardwell, Ky.; seventeen grandchildren, five great-grandchildren; and his brother, Larry Burris Sr. and his wife Suzanne of Charlotte, N.C.



BURRIS

His parents, Fred Titus Burris and Nealer Krozetta Clark Burris, both of Albemarle, N.C., preceded him in death.

Family and friends may sign the online guestbook at www.robertbarhamffh.com and by visiting www.northcrestbaptist.com following the links.



Carpenter Bus Sales

Special Announcement:
Lowest Lease Payments Ever
Available Now!

www.carpenterbus.com • 866-750-5658

Give yourself a **10% Bonus**
With MarketPower Bonus Index™

EquiTrust Life Insurance Company* offers you a 10% bonus on any premiums paid in the first year. This 10% is applied immediately to your account and is available to start earning interest right away. In addition, this annuity gives you the power of:

- Completely avoided market losses—Guaranteed
- Index-linked earnings
- Tax deferral
- Access to your money

Call us today for more information!

L.D. O'Mire
Financial Services
Serving Over 50 Years
601.957.3841
www.ldomire.com

*Guarantees subject to the claims-paying ability of EquiTrust Life Insurance Company. Surrender of the contract may be subject to surrender charge or market value adjustment. Product not available in all states. Contracts issued on Form Series ET-MPP-2000(02-05). Group Certificates issued on Form Series ET-MPP-2000(01-07). EquiTrust Life Insurance Company®, West Des Moines, IA. AC10-ET-MPP-1177

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 12, 2012

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

BSU WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULES

*All events are at the BSU Centers unless otherwise noted

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Noonday • Mon-1 pm,
Thurs - 12:35 pm
Prime Time Worship •
every other Tues - 7 pm

CO-LIN CC

Praise/Worship • Mon -
6:15 pm
Dorm Bible Study •
Tues - 8 pm

DELTA STATE

Focus Worship • Mon -
6:30 pm Bible Study/
Lunch • Wed - Noon

EAST CENTRAL CC

Worship • Mon -
8:31 pm Lunch
Encounter • Wed - Noon

GULF COAST CC

Jeff Davis Campus
Free Lunch • Wed - Noon

JACKSON COUNTY

Free Lunch • Tues - Noon

PERKINSTON

Free Lunch • Tues -
12:30pm

HINDS CC

Worship • Tues - 7 pm
Lunch • Thurs - 12:30pm
Small Group Bible Study
• Thurs - TBA

HOLMES CC

Goodman Campus
Worship & Bible Study •
Tues - 7:00pm
Lunch & Devotion •
Thurs - 11:00am

GRENADA CAMPUS

Lunch & Devotion • Thurs -
12:15pm

RIDGELAND CAMPUS

Lunch & Devotion • Wed -
12:00 noon

ITAWAMBA CC

Luncheon • Wed -
12:07 pm | Worship •
Wed - 7:07 pm

JONES COUNTY JC

Worship • Tues - 6:30pm
Noonday Lunch • Wed -
11:00am - 1:00pm

MERIDIAN CC

Lunch Devotion • Wed -
Chapel - 11:30 am &
12:30 pm | Gathering
(Worship) • First Tues
Chapel - 7 pm

MC

Vision Worship • Mon -
FBC P'ship Hall - 6:30 pm
Focus Bible Study Groups
• Tues, Thurs

MISSISSIPPI DELTA CC

Worship & Fellowship •
Mon - 7:00pm
Bible Study • Tues -
Dorms - 9:00pm

NAOYDAY LUNCH & DEVOTION

• Wed - 12:00pm

MSU

Priority • Tues - Praise &
Worship - 6:15pm

Noonday • Wed - Lunch
& Bible Study • Noon

MS U FOR WOMEN

Noonday Lunch • Wed -
Noon Weekly Bible Study
- TBA

NORTHEAST MS CC

Worship • Wed - 6:30
pm Bible Study Luncheon
• Thurs - 10:40 am

NORTHWEST MS CC

Worship & Bible Study •
Tues - 7 pm Dorm Bible
Studies • Wed Nights -
Time TBA Lunch & Bible
Study • Wed - Noon -
DeSoto Center

PEARL RIVER CC

Worship • Mon - 6:33pm
Lunch Encounter • Thurs -
11:00 am Lunch •
Wed - Noon - Hattiesburg
Campus

SOUTHWEST MS CC

The Shed • Mon - Bible
Study - 7 pm
Noonday Lunch • Wed -
11:15 am

OLE MISS

Main Event Worship •
Tues - 7 pm
Fresh Start/Freshmen &
Transfers • Thurs - 7 pm

USM

Coffeetalk • Mon - 8 pm
- Internationals 6:01pm

- Tues - Worship & Bible
Study • 12:01 pm - Thurs

- Lunch & Devotion

WILLIAM CAREY

Campus LINK • Mon -
Student Center - 8:30pm
Prayer BREAKFAST •
Wed - BSU Center - 9:30
am Priority LUNCH •
Thurs - Student Center -
Noon

Online Training

for WMU Missions
& Women's Ministry Leaders

Mississippi WMU is now offering online training for missions leaders.

The following seven conferences are now available:

- How to Involve Churches in Associational Missions
- How to Involve Your Church in Missions
- How to Involve Adults in Missions
- How to Involve Women in Women's Ministry
- How to Involve Students in Missions
- How to Involve Children in Missions
- How to Involve Preschoolers in Missions

These online conferences are designed to train missions leaders in the local association and church to facilitate missions education and ministries as needed in their ministry environment.

To participate you must register online at:
www.mbc.org/mission_strategy/wmu/education/online_training.aspx.
Online registration is now open.

For more information
about online training please contact
TAMMY ANDERSON
in the Mississippi WMU office
at 800-748-1651, ext. 323, or
tanderson@mbcb.org.



DiscipleLIFE

The Life You Were Meant to Live

Sept. 28-29

Morrison Heights BC, Clinton


Contact your BSU Director or Church
Minister to register, or contact Col-
legiate Ministry @ 800.748.1651



Transformational Sunday School Training

July 14, 21, 28; August 11, 18, 25; September 8, 15, 22

Make your plans now to attend Sunday School training designed with the needs of your church in mind. Planning teams work with local church and association leaders in each region of the state to prayerfully determine the needs of your church. Each conference is customized with those needs in mind. Specific conferences will be announced as needs are discovered.

"Embrace Today!"
"YESTERDAY, is a treasure TOMORROW is a blessing—TODAY is a gift that why it is called PRESENT"

Women's Retreat
October 19-20, 2012

For more information, contact Mississippi WMU at 601.292.3319

VISIT CAMPUS

Going to college this fall?

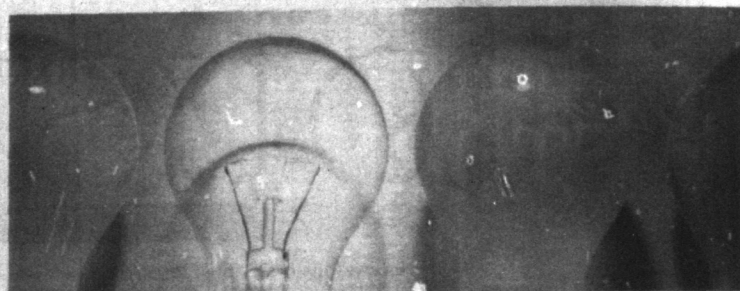
Have you considered calling
the Baptist Student Union?

We would like to be your first stop in helping you find
your way around!

- Meet the BSU director
- Get helpful general information about the campus
- Learn about BSU opportunities when you arrive

For contact info about the campus you plan to attend, go to our website:
www.mbc.org/BSU

Collegiate Ministry
601.292.3299



2012 Pastors Workshop — Creating a Culture of Evangelism —


First Baptist Church
Natchez
Monday, August 6, 2012

Pearl River Baptist Association
McNeill
Monday, August 20, 2012

9:00 a.m. — noon

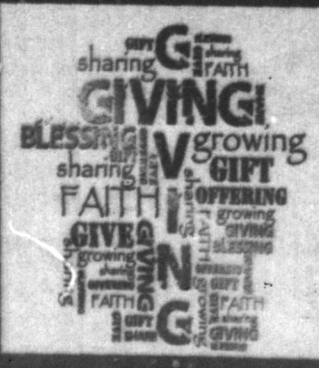
- Registration is due by July 30, 2012, so that materials can be prepared.
- For more information, or to register, call 601.968.3800, ext. 305, or 800.748.1651, ext. 305.

Sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



41st Annual Church Library Ministry Conference
 October 5-6, '12

For more information, contact Judy Chen at 601.292.3378 or jchen@mbcb.org



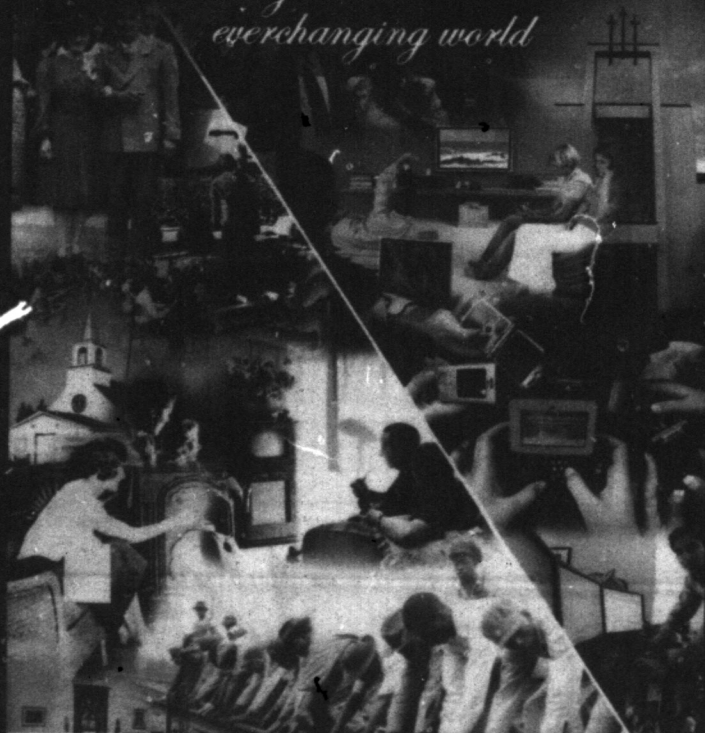
One-Day Stewardship Revival

The one activity with the most potential for creating a culture of generosity in your congregation is a Stewardship Workshop.

For more information contact the Stewardship department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at 601.292.3347.

The STORY...

*Telling it in a
everchanging world*



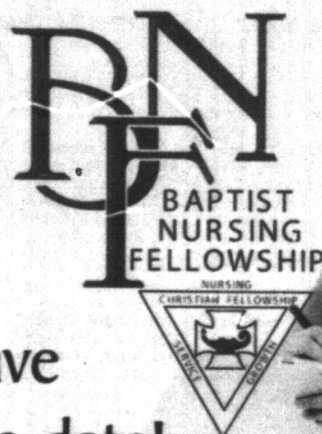
GROWING CHURCH CONFERENCE 2012
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH HATTIESBURG, MS
JULY 27 - 28

MISSISSIPPI WMU LEADERSHIP TRAINING 2012

- August 9** — Church Missions Leadership Training
FBC, Starkville, Golden Triangle Association
- August 17-18** — Annual Missions Celebration, featuring
- WMU Annual Meeting
 - Associational Missions Leadership Training
 - Church Missions Leadership Training at Garaywa Camp & Conference Center in Clinton
- August 23** — Church Missions Leadership Training
Clarksdale Baptist Church
- August 30** — Church Missions Leadership Training
FBC, Gulfport
Gulf Coast Association



BNF Retreat 2012: October 5-6 at Garaywa in Clinton



Save
the date!



Designed for:

Children (Grades 4-6)

Student Drillers (Grades 7-12)

Adults who teach Children's Bible Drill

Adults who teach Student Bible Drill

High School Speakers (Grades 10-12)

Retreat Registration Pack Request

Church Name _____

Name of leader making request _____

Address to mail request to: _____

To request your church pack, fill out this request form, check the appropriate boxes, and mail it to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Department of Family Ministries
PO Box 5100, Jackson, MS 39207
Phone: 601/714-2432
E-mail: sbcbfamily@sbcb.org

Registration \$20 plus lodging

Mississippi Baptists support full year registration and lodging fees with your registration pack, and thank you!

Some lodging choices fill very quickly.

Fall Bible Drill Retreat
September 21-22, 2012 • Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

Pray this day for...

July 13 — 26, 2012

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."
— Ephesians 6:18

Pray for: **Paul and Donna* Worsham**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Mexico through church planting, church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Arnold* and Margie* Austin**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Peru through community, church and home outreach and encounter evangelism.

Pray for: **Richard and Martha* Beal**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach and serving through financial administration.

Pray for: **David and Laurie* Bledsoe**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald* and Teresa* Bolls**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach evangelism and agriculture missions.

Pray for: **David and Laurie* Bledsoe**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald* and Teresa* Bolls**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the United States through church and home outreach, evangelism, and agriculture missions.

Pray for: **Matthew* and Megan* Brewer**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Hungary through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Kaye Brooks***, IMB missionary ministering to American Peoples in Chile through church planting.

Pray for: **John and Claudia* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Malawi through church and home outreach, and evangelism.

Pray for: **Donald* and Donna* Brown**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Romania through church and home outreach, evangelism, and church planting.

Pray for: **David and Pamela* Carlton**, IMB missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in South Africa through church and home outreach, evangelism, and theological education.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

State literacy missions retreat

August 2 - August 4, 2012
1:00 p.m. Thursday - 1:00 p.m. Friday
Garaywa Camp and Conference Center

"We've a Story to Tell"
*"This is the Message
we have heard from Him
and announce to you.
God is Light.
There is no darkness in Him."*
1 John 1:5



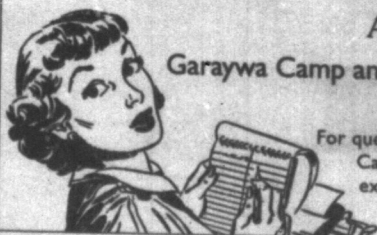
For more information contact: Paula Smith - psmith@mbcb.org / 601-292-3336
Registration form will be posted the first of May at
www.mbcb.org/http://www.mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu/literacy/

2012 Professional Certification and Office Skillshops for Ministry Assistants

August 21-23, 2012

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center
Clinton, Miss.

For questions, or to register, contact
Cathy Taylor at 1-800-748-1651,
ext. 305, or 292-3305 or e-mail:
cwtaylor@mbcb.org



MISS MIA
9-2-03

Parents: CJ & J
Restricted

MISS DARBY
9-03-03

Parents: J & K
Restricted

MR. NATHAN TILTON
9-8-93

Parents: J. & P.
Restricted

MISS EMILY C. HEWITT
9-9-95

Parents: Earl
and Ramona
Sub-Saharan African
Peoples

MISS HAYLEE HOLEMAN
9-11-96

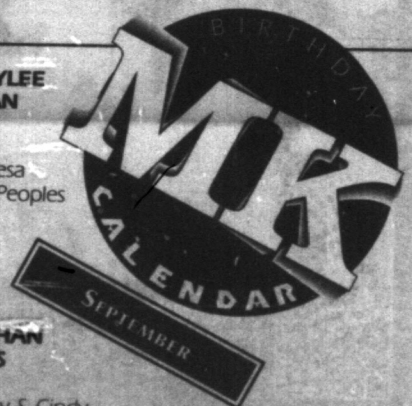
Parents:
Jeff and Liesa
American Peoples

MR. NATHAN HODGINS
9-17-05

Parents: Ray & Cindy
Deaf Peoples

MISS MAEGAN K. PUTNAM
9-27-01

Parents: Tracy and Genie
European Peoples



Encourage an MK with a card!

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, **MBCB WMU MK Birthdays**, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

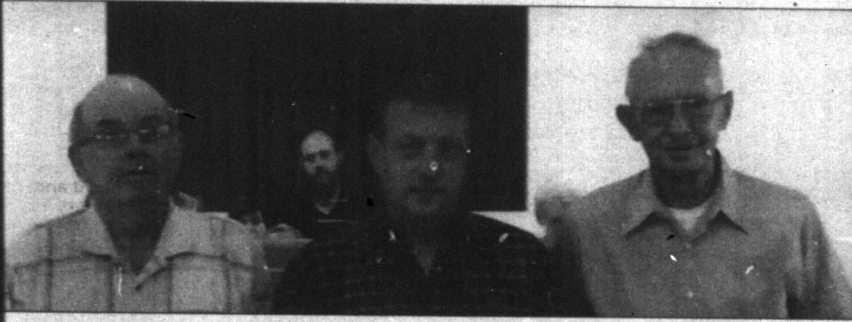
Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

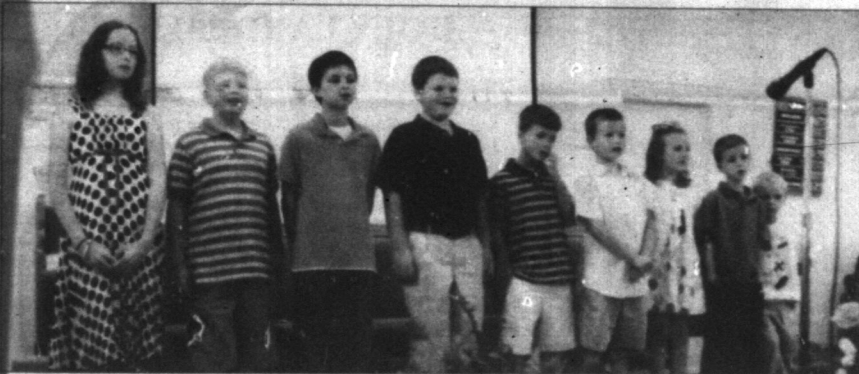
HOUSE TOPS

Just for the Record



LIBERTY CHURCH, CARROLL COUNTY, recognized fathers in attendance June 17. Shown are Barry Dubard, father with most family members present; Eric Warren, youngest father; and Ed Tharp, oldest father.

Paris Brumfield and Katelynn Blackwell (front), and April Brumfield and Cindy Thornton (rear), of **SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MIKE COUNTY**, attended the Mother/Daughter event at Garawya Camp and Conference Center.



The children of **CONCORD CHURCH, BENTON-TIPPAH ASSOCIATION**, presented the annual program for Mother's Day and homecoming, directed by Kim Hargett and Heather Ledbetter. Robert E. Walker, pastor.



The RAs and GAs of **MILITARY CHURCH, SUMRALL**, washed cars to raise money for the church's new activities building.



An ordination council and service for Tim Moore was held at **FIRST CHURCH, CHICORA**, June 3. Moore will serve at Clear Creek Church. Dewight Smith, Associational Missions Director, presided over the ordination council; Jackie Spell, pastor.



SILVER CREEK CHURCH, MCCOMB, recognized GAs Seira Martin, leader Robbie Patten, Katelynn Blackwell and Paris Brumfield.



The youth group of **SLAYDEN CHURCH, MARSHALL ASSOCIATION**, participated in a mission trip to Arlington, Tex., June 9-16. The group of 38 presented Backyard Bible Clubs and other mission work, with four children accepting Christ.

In other Church News:

► **New Life Fellowship, Oakland**, will have their 10 year celebration of being in their church building July 15. Service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch.

► **Briarwood Drive Church, Jackson**, will show the movie, *Courageous*, July 14, 6:30 p.m. A community festival will precede the showing at 5 p.m. with games for children and food for the entire family. A four-week *Courageous Living Bible* study will begin the following week (time TBA).

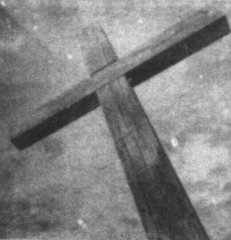
► **Goodwater Church, Meehan**, will host a reception in honor of Gloria Allen, who is retiring after 55 years of service as organist on July 22, 2-4 p.m.

► **First Church, Eupora**, will host Squire Parsons in concert July 28, 7 p.m. Love offering.

► **First Church, Runnelstown**, will host Squire Parsons in concert July 27, 7:30 p.m. Love offering.

Find hope in Christ

Learn how to become a Christian at
mbcb.org/christian



CLASSIFIEDS

MINISTER OF YOUTH AND EDUCATION: Farley Community Church (a Southern Baptist church) in Huntsville Alabama is seeking a full-time Minister of Youth and Education. Resumes may be sent to Farley Community Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 12302 Bell Road, Huntsville, AL 35803.

A PIECE OF HEAVEN. BUILD YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME at Ridgecrest, NC. Wooded half-acre lot. Power, water, sewer access. \$20,900. Call 406-690-3590.

CONSERVATIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH DOING CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC, SEEKING FULL-TIME MUSIC/EDUCATION MINISTER. Send resumes to Carville Baptist Search Committee, 2436 Notasuga Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32308.

HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING RESUMES FOR A MINISTER TO STUDENTS. Please send your resume to: 500 Al-berta Street, Enterprise, Alabama 36330 by July 31, 2012. Attn: Student Search Team or e-mail to pastorsec@hbc.org or pastorsec@hbc.org.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to 601-483-7958 or call 800-368-2705.

GET AWAY AT BETSY'S LIL' CABINS call for a brochure 601-940-6841

MORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN CARLISLE, ARKANSAS IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. Conservative in doctrine, Traditional music. Please send resume to: First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 25, Carlisle, AR 72024.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

NEED TO DOWNSIZE? CLARK ESTATE SALES CAN HELP! "Estate Sales Experts" Turn assets into cash in 14 days! Honest - Professional - References 601-317-2536. www.nickclarkauctions.com Certified Appraiser Statewide Service No upfront fees or expenses We do 100% of the work.

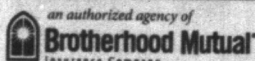
GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$90/night and Condo \$70/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or Email: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN OWNED. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

Call for free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES
HEATERS, PUMPS
FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
www.fiberglasschurchprod.com
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3011 HUSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

BROOKS MINISTRY INSURANCE

Mike Brooks
Agency Principal



Call today for a free quote **888.908.3662**

or email: mike@brooksministryinsurance.com



Strength in numbers.

For nearly a century, the mission of Baptist Memorial Health Care has been to serve others, both inside our hospitals and in our communities. From building a Habitat for Humanity home to the many health fairs, free health screenings, and educational initiatives, we've provided in the communities we serve. For us, it's a reminder of how much we can accomplish and motivation to do even more to support our community in ways that strengthen all of us.



BAPTIST

WELL BEYOND A CENTURY.

www.BaptistOnline.org | 800-4-BAPTIST

BIBLiOCIPHER

ZBST ULSTSP ZBSAE XTPSEMZDTPATC,

ZBDZ ZBSQ JACBZ XTPSEMZDTP ZBS

MNEALZXESM.

IXHS ZOSTZQ-VUXE: VUEZQ-VARS

Clue: Z = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts One Seven

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

"Hearing is Believing"

For a **FREE** consultation call
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821
or go online at www.audioservices.org

Professional Sound
System Design and
Installation
Church / School / Commercial

audio SERVICES
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

HOLY LAND 2013

January 2-12, 2013

11 Day Custom Travel to Israel
with Mississippi College group

Experience Spiritual Renewal, Archaeological Discovery,
Biblical Understanding

Contact: Dr. Roger Greene rgreene@mc.edu
Professor, Christian Studies (601) 925-3291
Mississippi College (601) 924-5403

Join Other Baptists

Rose Parade Tour

Exclusive Pre-Parade Float Viewing!
Enjoy Reserved Grandstand Seats!

5 Days *Departs December 29, 2012* from **\$848***

Join other Baptist and experience the best "New Year's" you've had in years on this five day tour! Spend four nights in L.A. and enjoy a tour of the "City of Angels," Hollywood, where you will see the Mann's Chinese Theatre; Beverly Hills and Rodeo Drive. You may also choose to take optional tours to the Reagan Library and J. Paul Getty Museum. On December 30, 2012 savor a YMT exclusive, pre-parade, after public hours, float building and viewing at the Rosemont Pavilion with included dinner. Watch the artists put the "finishing touches" on the floats unencumbered by public crowds! On Tuesday, January 1, 2013, **enjoy your reserved grandstand seats at the Rose Parade!** You've seen the parade on TV for years; now see the excitement and hoopla of the most famous parade in America live and up close. The sights, sounds, and even the floats' aromas all make being there truly spectacular. *Price per person, based on double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

YMT
vacations
It's time to travel

For details & itinerary call 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300

Follow the Leader • Judges 4:1-4,6-8a,10; 5:1-5, 9-11a

The purpose of this unit of study is to lead adults to demonstrate fidelity to the Lord during crises. The emphasis of last week's lesson was upon showing fidelity through awareness that unfaithfulness has consequences. This week's lesson emphasizes we can show fidelity to the Lord by supporting and boldly following godly leaders. The background of the lesson is set in the days of the judges, characterized by the pattern of judgment and sin we examined last week.

This lesson's emphasis on supporting and following godly leaders is long overdue. Often the problems churches face too quickly are ascribed to weak leadership. Few people consider the impact of poor followship. All leaders need encouragement and prayer. When followers volunteer, give, and get personally involved in the work of the church, leaders shine. Leaders who experience the support and appreciation of the people are motivated to do their best. The goal of this week's lesson is to help adults identify ways to support godly leaders and commit to demonstrate such support for leaders in their churches.

1. Encourage Leaders to Listen to the Lord (Judg. 4:1-4,6-7) The pattern of sin and judgment is evident in Judges 4:1-7. The Israelites sinned (4:1). In wrath, "the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin" and "Sisera, the commander of his army" (4:2) who oppressed the Israelites for twenty years (4:3).

We are introduced to Deborah who is described as a "prophet" and as the one "leading Israel at the time" (4:4; NIV). She was noted for her wisdom in settling judicial cases (4:5). God used Deborah and Barak, a military leader, to deliver His people from Jabin's harsh rule.

Most importantly, Deborah encouraged Barak to take ten thousand men and to assemble on Mt. Tabor. In turn, God would give Sisera, his chariots, and his army into Barak's hands (4:6-7). Deborah encouraged Barak, who obeyed the Lord's command through her.

2. Get Personally Involved (Judg. 4:8a,10) Barak was reluctant to go alone. He requested Deborah to join him (4:8a). Thus on Mt. Tabor, the spiritual leader of God's people, Deborah, and the military leader of the armed forces, Barak, were side by side. Deborah got personally involved by accompanying Barak to the area of the battle.

Sisera arrived near the Kishon River in the valley with 900 chariots (4:13).

Deborah encouraged Barak to engage in battle, assuring him of the Lord's victory (4:14). The battle quickly became a rout with Sisera fleeing on foot. We are reminded, "the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword" (4:15). The Lord used Barak to

destroy all of Sisera's army; Sisera himself died at the hands of a woman, Jael.

Success came through personal

Explore the Bible with W. Wayne VanHorn



involvement in God's work of deliverance. What a powerful truth for our churches today. Christians can encourage their leaders to listen to the Lord and then back their encouragement with personal involvement. God will use this unified effort to advance His salvific work in the community and the world.

3. Praise the Lord for Godly Leaders (Judg. 5:1-5,9-11a) Deborah and Barak sang a song of victory in the afterglow of their resounding victory. They noted three keys to their triumph. First, the princes or leaders of Israel had to "take the lead" (5:2a). Second, the people had to "willingly

offer themselves" (5:2b). Third, the result was total victory at the hands of the Lord. Both leaders and people praised the Lord (5:2c-5). Past failures of followship were briefly recounted (5:6-8). Then, Deborah praised the Lord for the godly leadership of Israel's princes (2:9) but probably she particularly had Barak in mind.

What would happen today in our churches if these three important keys to success were in place? First, every pastor, staff member, deacon, Sunday school teacher, and other leaders, are challenged to "take the lead" in their respective areas of responsibility to listen to the Lord and to obey His directives. Barak did; we should too.

Second, every church member is challenged to be a good follower. Do you pray for your pastor and deacons? Do you encourage your church leaders? Do you tell your Sunday school teacher you appreciate her sacrifice of time in preparing to present the weekly lesson? Sound followship cannot stand on encouragement alone. Followers need to get involved personally.

Finally, both leaders and followers need to be committed to the Lord's causes. Give Him robust praise for every success.

VanHorn is dean of Christian Studies at Mississippi College, Clinton.

Empowered • Romans 8:26-27; Ephesians 5:15-6:20

Along with YOU, I was born infected with the consequences of the forbidden fruit selection of Adam and Eve. The day I first believed in Jesus (way back when I was only six) was the very same day that the Heavenly Father filled me with His Spirit. At my invitation and in fulfillment of the promise of Jesus, the Holy Spirit moved into my life and took up permanent residence. He sealed me completely in His care. He will sustain me in this life. On a day that only God knows, He will deliver me to my reserved spot at the feet of Jesus in the throne room of God. In regard to my aforementioned sin infection, I have never needed another injection of His Spirit. I have certainly benefitted from that daily booster shot of His strength and power through the infusion of prayer, Bible study and moments of listening and waiting.

Inside my guitar case, I carry the leg of a G.I. JOE action figure. I found that leg underneath my couch. I am not sure what happened to the rest of JOE, but I could not bring myself to throw his leg away. Every time I open my guitar case and reach inside the box for my picks, I see that leg fully dressed in army green cammo, complete with a black boot. JOE's last leg reminds me of what

happens when I try to walk in my own strength without the power of the Holy Spirit. I do not recommend it. If he could speak, neither would JOE.

Once again, we look to the writings of Paul to help us plug in to the power and strength of the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 5:17-21, Paul assures us that our need for living in the Spirit is a no-brainer.

We should not be confused about the will of the Lord in this serious matter. To the degree that we saturate ourselves in His strength, we overflow in our relationships with evidences of worship, gratitude and service. That one-time infilling of the Holy Spirit at salvation keeps its fire blazing by daily, oxygen-filled drafts of time spent with the Lord. Forget draughts of drunkenness. Slake your thirst with the Spirit of God.

"Be filled" with the Spirit means to continue (keep on) being filled. And,

no, this does not contradict my personal declarations in paragraph one. The daily (sometimes a moment by moment) decision to breathe Him deeply into current affairs and desperate circumstances is described by Paul as "walking in the Spirit." As we get to know God better through His Word and time spent together with Him, our spiritual lungs

gleam with health. Our God-shaped hearts beat in time with the tune. Our words and our music are on key and sung in harmony with God's

purpose for our pilgrimage. I have an idea that the Lord just might call these our heart songs. Verse 19 contains one of my favorite phrases: "psalms, hymns and spiritual songs". Every kind of spoken word and composed music form is mentioned here. "Making melody" is the word for playing along by strumming. I think JOE might even be patting that last leg in time with this music!

When Spirit-filled folks live in submission to God and to one another, all relationships will prosper and grow and mature into the beautiful tapestry God designed. Wives, husbands, fathers, mothers, children, slaves and masters will be found "doing the will of God from the heart" as described in Ephesians 6:6.

Finally, we will attempt to bring this lesson to a close in the vegetable garden. Step with me into the "P" patch found in Romans 8:26-27 and Ephesians 6:18-20. When we are too weak to pray, the Holy Spirit helps us. When we can't form the words, He prays for us with deep groans that speak the heart language of God. He searches our hearts and interprets our purposeful intentions to the Father. We are to pray and offer our petitions in the Spirit with all perseverance, proclaiming the gospel boldly.

Next week, we will continue to explore the role and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We will see how He grants us wisdom and gives us confidence in our relationship with the Father through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Life in the Spirit is truly life. Don't leave Earth without Him. JOE said so.

Brown is the staff evangelist at First Church, Richland.

Bible Studies for Life with Becky Brown



EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF GREENVILLE, MS IS IN SEARCH OF A FULL TIME CHILDREN'S PASTOR. Please send resumes to Emmanuel Baptist Church, Attn: Tommy Burford, 3600 Glen-dale Rd, Greenville, MS 38704 or e-mail to tb_birdlegs@yahoo.com

UNION HALL BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR. Resumes may be mailed to the church at: 1242 Nola Road N. E., Brookhaven, MS 39601 Attention: Youth Director Search Committee.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH IN OAK GROVE

IS SEEKING A PART-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER. We will be taking resumes now-August 10. Send resumes to calvarychildrensearch@yahoo.com.

FBC INDIANOLA, MS IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please mail

resumes to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 366, Indianola, MS 38751 or e-mail them to fbci-indola@gmail.com

LEMOYNE BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTER OF WORSHIP. Please contact Alan Kuhn at 228-861-8152

or send resume to: Lemoyne Blvd. Baptist Church, 15005 Lemoyne Blvd., Biloxi, MS 39532

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH COFFEEVILLE IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please mail resumes to P.O. Box 240 Coffeeville MS or e-mail to fbc-cof7878@gmail.com.

Staff Changes



(AT RIGHT) **RAWLS SPRINGS CHURCH, HATTIESBURG**, has called Michael Morgan as pastor, who began his ministry July 1. Shown are Morgan, wife Jamie, and children, Alex and Kara.



(AT LEFT) **BLACKWATER CHURCH, KEMPER COUNTY**, has called Heath Riggs as their pastor. He is shown with his wife Angelyn and their six children.

College News



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY president Tommy King has been elected to represent the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) on the Council of Presidents of the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). King will serve a three-year term and will represent the interests of the largest of the 24 conferences that make up NAIA. The SSAC includes 15 schools in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE professor Billy Morehead is the recipient of a national leadership award from the Association of Government Accountants. The Greenville native will receive the association's Robert W. King Memorial Award named for the organization's founding president who launched the group in

1950 along with federal government accountants. The association expanded in 1975 to include state and local government finance professionals.



Students in **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY's** summer community nursing course held a Health Fair from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on June 21 in the Student Conference Center. The health fair included booths with information on breast cancer awareness, diabetic education, hypertension, nutrition, smoking cessation, and stress reduction. Tests were conducted on blood glucose and blood pressure, as well. Twenty-three nursing students participated in the planning and implementation of the health fair. Julia Mansell, instructor of nursing at William Carey University, Blake Munna, a senior nursing student from Poplarville, and Jessica Allcock, senior nursing student from Ellisville, are shown in front of the smoking cessation information booth.

Vacation Bible School

Upcoming Vacation Bible Schools:

► **Riverside Church, Money:** July 23 - 27, 6 - 8 p.m.
 ► **Concord Church, Benton - Tippah Association:** July 13 - 17, preschool - 6th grade; for more information, call (662) 728-8384.

► **Temple Church, Petal:** Beginning July 16, 5:30 - 8 p.m.
 ► **Christ Church, Greenwood:** July 15 - 20, 5:30 - 8 p.m.; supper provided.
 ► **Bay Springs Church, Kemper County:** VBS and horse camp, July 16 - 20; 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.; horse camp including learning about the care, tacking, and riding of horses with trail rides Thursday and Friday; lunch provided; VBS in the afternoon; ages 4 - 12.

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Wheeler Grove Church, Alcorn County:** Revival, July 22 - 25; Sun., 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bob Pitman, speaker.

► **Mt. Vernon Church, Liberty:** Homecoming, July 15, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Stan Nowell, speaker; Bill Pendleton, music; Jerry Causey, pastor.

► **Hathorn Church, Jeff Davis County:** Revival, July 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and special music; Mon. - Wed., 6 p.m.; Glenn Shows, speaker; Duke and Linda Barnes, music; Wade Barnes, pastor.

► **Tocowa Church, Batesville:** Revival, July 15 - 20; Sun., 10 a.m., gospel group, Southern Image; services, 11 a.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Carlie Ritchie, speaker; Tommy Hudson, music; Connie Haley, pianist.

► **Hickory Grove Church, Sumrall:** Revival, July 15 - 20; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; George Berger, speaker.

► **Pleasant Hill Church, New Hebron:** revival, July 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Sun. - Wed., 7 p.m. with refreshments following Wed. services; Rodney Anderson, speaker; Jerry Jay, music; Philip Douglas, pastor.

► **Crystal Ridge Church, Winston Association:** Revival, July 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Bozeman, speaker; Charles Rook, pastor.

► **Holly Springs Church, Foxworth:** Revival, July 15 - 20; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon singing; Mon. - Fri., 7 p.m.; Walton Douglas, speaker; Donaovon McComb, music; Ron Jordon, pastor.

► **Concord Church, Smith County:** Revival, July 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Ray Gates and Hal Daire, ministers.

► **New Home Church, Morton:** Revival, July 15 - 18; Sun., worship, 11 a.m. followed by noon luncheon; Mon. - Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Mickey Dalrymple, speaker; Jeff Jones, music; Billy McKay, pastor.